

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01371 241348Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

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P R 241335Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2572

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 1371

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CASC, CSCE, CGEN, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS - THIRD SESSION

REF: MOSCOW 13232

1. IF IN FACT AUGUST 25 SESSION SEES DISCUSSION OF SOVIET AGENDA ITEM ON "PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH DELIVERY OF DIPLOMATIC POUCHES TO SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL IN U.S.", WE WOULD HOPE THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES CAN OBTAIN RELIEF ON TWO LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS WE HAVE HERE IN THIS REGARD.

2. OUR MOST VEXING PROBLEM IS INABILITY TO SHIP APO POUCHES FROM LENINGRAD TO HELSINKI IN BAGGAGE CAR. SOVIETS INSIST ALL MUST BE PLACED IN COMPARTMENT WITH NON-PRO COURIERS. PARTICULARLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE AND BACKLOG DEVELOPS. ON RETURN TRGL FROM HELSINKI, POUCHES ARE CARRIED IN BAGGAGE CAR. RATIONALE FOR SOVIET PROCEDURE ELUDES US.

3. THE OTHER PROBLEM IS OUR INABILITY TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO AIRPORT FOR CG TRUCK ON THURSDAYS FOR CLASSIFIED AIRPORT EXCHANGE. WE STILL MUST MANHANDLE FREQUENTLY HEAVY LOADS BOTH INCOMING AND OUTGOING ONTO AIRPORT BUS AND TRANSFER TO OR FROM TRUCK OFF TARMAC. WHEN WINTER TEMPERATURES HIT 10 OR 20 DEGREES BELOW, THE AIRPORT RUN BECOMES AN ENDURANCE CONTEST.

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4. WE DOUBT THAT WHATEVER PROBLEMS THE SOVIETS MAY THINK THEY
HAVE IN SAN FRANCISCO ARE IN FACT AS AGGRAVATING AS EITHER OF
THESE, AND WE WOULD URGE THE EMBASSY TO STAND FIRM IN ORDER TO
OBTAIN RELIEF FOR US.
NEUBERT

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